

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. - 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A composition ~~based on~~ consisting essentially of zirconium oxide~~[[,]] comprising~~ and at least one additive ~~being an oxide of~~ selected from oxides of praseodymium, lanthanum ~~or~~ and neodymium, ~~and the composition~~ having a specific surface area of at least  $29 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  after calcination for 10 hours at  $1000^\circ\text{C}$ .

21. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 20, wherein the specific surface area is ~~of~~ at least  $35 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ , ~~optionally of at least  $40 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ ,~~ after calcination for 10 hours at  $1000^\circ\text{C}$ .

22. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 21, wherein the specific surface area is ~~of~~ at least  $50 \text{ m m}^2/\text{g}$  after calcination for 10 hours at  $1000^\circ\text{C}$ .

23. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 20, having a specific surface area of at least  $10 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  after calcination for 4 hours at  $1100^\circ\text{C}$ .

24. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 23, wherein the specific surface area is ~~of~~ at least  $15 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  after calcination for 4 hours at  $1100^\circ\text{C}$ .

25. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 21, having a specific surface area of at least  $2 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ , ~~optionally of at least  $3 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ ,~~ after calcination for 10 hours at  $1200^\circ\text{C}$ .

26. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 20, having a specific surface area of at least  $45 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  after calcination for 4 hours at  $900^\circ\text{C}$ .

27. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 26, wherein ~~the specific~~ the specific surface area of is at least  $50 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ , ~~optionally of at least  $55 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ ,~~ after calcination for 4 hours at  $900^\circ\text{C}$ .

28. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 20, having an additive content which does not exceed 50% by weight of additive oxide with respect to the weight of the composition.

29. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 28, wherein the additive content is ~~between~~ 10% and to 40%.

30. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 29, wherein the additive content is ~~between~~ 10% and to 30%.

31. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 20, further having mesopores ~~between~~ 10 nm and to 500 nm in size.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a the composition as ~~defined in~~ of claim 20, the method comprising ~~the following steps~~:

(a) forming a mixture comprising compounds consisting essentially of compounds of zirconium, ~~of~~ and the at least one additive and, optionally, of ~~aluminum or silicon~~;

(b) contacting the mixture ~~obtained in step a)~~ of (a) with a basic compound whereby a precipitate is obtained;

(c) heating the precipitate ~~obtained in step b)~~ of (b) in a liquid medium;

(d) adding a compound to the precipitate ~~obtained in step c)~~ of (c), said compound being an anionic surfactant, nonionic surfactant, polyethyleneglycol, carboxylic acid, a salt thereof, or a carboxymethylated fatty alcohol ethoxylate; and

(e) calcining the precipitate ~~thereby obtained in step d)~~ of (d).

34. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 33, wherein the compounds of zirconium, and of additive ~~and of aluminum compounds~~ are nitrates, acetates or chlorides.

35. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 33, wherein ~~in step e)~~ the heating of the precipitate is carried out at a temperature of at least 100°C.

36. (Currently Amended) A catalytic system, ~~wherein~~ comprising a the composition ~~as defined in~~ of claim 20.

37. (Previously Presented) The catalytic system as claimed in claim 36, further comprising a transition metal or a precious metal, supported by the composition.

38. (Currently Amended) A method for treating exhaust gases of internal combustion engines, comprising ~~the step of~~ treating said gases in the presence of the catalyst system as defined in claim 37.

39. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 21, wherein the specific surface area is at least 40 m<sup>2</sup>/g after calcination for 10 hours at 1000°C.

40. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 25, wherein the specific surface area is at least 3 m<sup>2</sup>/g after calcination for 10 hours at 1200°C.

41. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 27, wherein the specific surface area is at least 55 m<sup>2</sup>/g after calcination for 4 hours at 900°C.

42. (New) A catalyst support comprising the composition of claim 20.

43. (New) A substrate having a wash coat applied thereon, the wash coat comprising the composition of claim 20.

44. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 20, wherein the zirconium oxide and the at least one additive form a solid solution.

45. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 20, wherein the composition is in the form of a mixture of different phases.